IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Following amendment, the paragraph starting on page 7, line 8 and ending on page 7, line 27 will appear as follows:

A1

The following patents and applications, each of which is assigned to the assignee of the current application, are hereby incorporated in their entirety by reference: Ginter et al., "Systems and Methods for Secure Transaction Management and Electronic Rights Protection," U.S. Patent No. 5,915,019, issued June 22, 1999 ("the '019 patent"); Ginter et al., "Trusted Infrastructure Support Systems, Methods and Techniques for Secure Electronic Commerce, Electronic Transactions, Commerce Process Control Automation, Distributed Computing, and Rights Management," U.S. Patent Application No. 08/699,712, filed August 12, 1996 ("the '712 application"); Van Wie et al., "Steganographic Techniques for Securely Delivering Electronic Digital Rights Management Information Over Insecure Communications Channels, U.S. Patent No. 5,943,422, issued August 24, 1999 ("the '422 patent"); Ginter et al., "Systems and Methods for Secure Transaction Management and Electronic Rights Protection," U.S. Patent No. 5,892,900, issued April 6, 1999 ("the '900 patent"); Shear et al., "Cryptographic Methods, Apparatus and Systems for Storage Media Electronic Rights Management in Closed and Connected Appliances," U.S. Patent Application No. 08/848,077, filed May 15, 1997 ("the Shear application"); Collberg et al., "Obfuscation Techniques for Enhancing Software Security," U.S. Patent Application No. 09/095,346, filed June 9, 1998 ("the Collberg application"); Shear, "Database Usage Metering and Protection System and Method," U.S. Patent No. 4,827,508, issued May 2, 1989 ("the Shear Patent"); and Sibert, "Systems and Methods for Using Cryptography to Protect

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Secure and Insecure Computing Environments," U.S. Patent Application No. 09/628,692, filed July 28, 2000 ("the Sibert application").

Following amendment, the paragraph starting on page 17, line 20 and ending on page 18, line 5 will appear as follows:

A2

In one embodiment, a credentialed watermarking engine is used to implement a predefined interface. Fingerprint attributes are associated with content to define the type of technology used to insert the fingerprint and the information to be included therein. An audio fingerprint can be applied at the time content is released, e.g., to a consumer using a music player application. Techniques for watermarking various types of signals (e.g., audio, visual, textual, etc.) are well-known in the art, and watermarking technology is readily-available from a variety of companies such as Fraunhofer IIS-A of Am Weischselgarten, 3 D-91058 Erlangen, Germany, and Verance Corporation of 6256 Greenwich Drive, Suite 500, San Diego, California (formerly ARIS Technologies, Inc.). Additional watermarking techniques are described or referenced in Proceedings of the IEEE, *Identification & Protection of Multimedia Information*, pp. 1062-1207 (Jul. 1999), and in commonly-assigned U.S. Patent Application No. 09/588,652, entitled "Methods and Systems for Encoding and Protecting Data Using Digital Signature and Watermarking Techniques," filed June 7, 2000, each of which is hereby incorporated by reference. It should be appreciated, however, that any suitable watermarking and/or fingerprinting technique may be used.

The paragraph starting on page 19, line 25, and ending on page 20, line 9 will appear as follows:

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In a preferred embodiment, a hinted watermarking technique is used, such as that described in commonly-assigned U.S. Patent Application No. 09/629,546, entitled "Software Self-Defense Systems and Methods," filed July 31, 2000, and in commonly-assigned U.S. Patent Application No. 09/629,807, entitled "Systems and Methods for Watermarking Software and Other Media," filed July 31, 2000, the relevant sections of which are hereby incorporated by reference. Hinted watermarking techniques typically break the watermarking or fingerprinting process into at least two separate phases. During the first phase, the unwatermarked content is processed to identify and/or generate a variety of locations at which watermarks or fingerprints can subsequently be inserted. During the second phase, the watermarks or fingerprints are actually inserted at the specified locations. Thus, hinted watermarking allows the computationally intensive part of watermarking process to be performed in advance (e.g., at packaging time), thus facilitating the rapid insertion of watermarks or fingerprints while the content is being released.

Ap Cont.

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